

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~cardiovascular disease~~heart failure assessment in an individual, comprising the steps of:
  - a. obtaining information regarding the presence or absence of a deletion of amino acids 322-352 in an alpha-2C adrenergic receptor ( $\alpha_{2C}$ DEL322-325) in a sample from an individual;
  - b. obtaining information regarding the presence or absence of an arginine at position 389 of a beta-1 adrenergic receptor ( $\beta_1$ Arg389) in a sample from the individual; ~~and~~
  - c. if both a homozygous  $\alpha_{2C}$ DEL322-325 polymorphism is present and a homozygous  $\beta_1$ Arg389 polymorphism is present, assessing that the individual is at increased risk for ~~cardiovascular disease~~heart failure; and
  - d. outputting result of the risk assessment for the individual.
2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sample comprises a blood sample, body fluid, tissue sample, or combinations thereof.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the information is obtained from a nucleic acid assay or a protein assay.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of selecting a therapy regimen for the individual based on the presence of both the  $\alpha_{2C}$ DEL322-325 polymorphism and the  $\beta_1$ Arg389 polymorphism, wherein the therapy regimen delays development of ~~cardiovascular disease~~heart failure in the individual.
- 7-10 (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the therapy regimen comprises administration of ~~agonists and/or antagonists of  $\alpha_{2C}$ DEL322-325 and  $\beta_1$ Arg389~~an agonist of  $\alpha_{2C}$ DEL322-325, an antagonist of  $\beta_1$ Arg389, or both.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the therapy regimen comprises life-[[ ]]style changes.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the therapy regimen delays development of heart failure by delaying progression or early death associated with the heart failure~~cardiovascular disease is delayed.~~

14-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of counseling the individual regarding the potential risk of developing a ~~cardiovascular disease~~ heart failure based on the presence of both the  $\alpha_2C$ DEL322-325 polymorphism and the  $\beta_1$ Arg389 polymorphism.

19-23 (Cancelled)